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BRIEFER ARTICLES.

Carl Moritz Gottsche.—Carl Moritz Gottsche, who died Sept. 28th, at Altona, near Hamburg, was born there July 3, 1808. He has been a practicing physician in his native village for over a half century, and during an equal period, an ardent student of the Hepaticae, issuing a large number of publications thereon which vary from a few pages of critical notes to elaborate monographs. From his first serious publications in 1843–5[1] down to his work in recent years there cannot be said to be a single careless issue from his hand. In order to more satisfactorily illustrate his papers, he early learned the art of the engraver and his success in this direction can best be seen in his papers, especially in the matchless plates of his *Mexikanske Levermosser*.

His botanical interest commenced with the group he continued to study. In fact his contributions to other botanical fields are scarcely worth mentioning in comparison. His first papers were chiefly morphological and dealt on the one hand with that curious link between the thallose and foliose Hepaticæ, *Haplomitrium Hookeri*, and the equally curious but scarcely circumscribed marsupiocarpous Hepaticae which he called "Jungermanniae Geocalyceae." In 1844–1847 appeared the Synopsis Hepaticarum which was the combined work of Gottsche and two older men, Lindenberg and Nees von Esenbeck. Although the former had published a monograph of the European species as early as 1829[2] followed by the more elaborate one by the latter in 1833–38,[3] Gottsche's name appears first on the title page and it is evident that he did a large part of the work. This work contains descriptions of over 1600 species of Hepaticae and is the last summary of the group that has appeared, although the number of known species has more than doubled. He was further associated with Lindenberg in the publication of Species Hepaticarum (1839–51), an elaborate work attempting to illustrate all the known species, which for lack of support stopped short with the genera Plagiochila, Lepidozia and Mastigobryum [Bazzania]. In 1856 he became associated with Rabenhorst in issuing exsiccatæ of European Hepaticæ (Hepaticæ Europeæ) which extended to 66 decades (nos. 1–660), and which owe their chief value to Gottsche's elaborate notes and icones which appear on the labels to the specimens. It is unfortunate that the numbered specimens of this series were often carelessly put up and sometimes badly mixed; while

[1] Anatomisch-physiologische Untersuchungen über Haplomitrium Hookeri (1843). Ueber die Fructification der Jungermanniæ Geocalyceæ. (1845). Both papers were published in Acta Acad. Caes.-Leop.

[2] Synopsis Hepaticarum Europaearum. 4to. Bonn, 1829.

[3] Naturgeschichte der europäischen Lebermoose. 4 vols, 12° ., Berlin and Breslau, 1833–38.

this was in no way the fault of Gottsche, it detracts from the value of his notes not to have with them, in each case, samples of the same plant on which the notes were made.

While we have not space here to mention all of Gottsche's work[4], we must call attention to two of his papers that are of special interest to Americans. The first is on the Hepaticæ of the U. S. of Columbia and the second is on Hepaticæ of Mexico[6] and more especially bears on our own flora. Both are elaborate works, both are elegantly illustrated by Gottsche's own hand, in both the flora is very fully represented and the monographs constitute a broad and substantial beginning to any further study of the Hepaticæ of these lands. Unlike so many pioneer works, no time will have to be squandered over two or three line descriptions in order to ascertain what was most likely intended by the describer, for the descriptions are as carefully written as the drawings are elegantly engraved.

Dr. Gottsche leaves an extensive herbarium made all the more valuable by his elaborate sketches of the species which he invariably made in his study of any form. Better than all else he leaves a memory which extends over half a century of friendly help he has freely given to students of the Hepaticæ in all lands.—L. M. U.

An edible lichen not heretofore noted as such.—*Endocarpon miniatum* Schaer. has been collected by me in many states, and is abundant in Tennessee. It has also been sent to me from Japan and Cuba, two widely diverse localities. It inhabits calcareous rocks and may easily be mistaken for *Umbilicaria*, two species of which it resembles. I doubt if any writer has noticed or commended this lichen as an article of diet. But Mr. Minakata, who is a distinguished scholar and naturalist, and who has lately spent two years in the United States in study and travel, informs me that large quantities are collected in the mountains of Japan for culinary purposes, and largely exported to China as an article of luxury. He expresses surprise that no attention is paid to it here. The name by which it is known in Japan is *iwataka*, meaning "*stone-mushroom.*" Properly treated it resembles tripe.—W. W. CALKINS, *Chicago, Ill.*

A new Tabebuia from Mexico and Central America: Tabebuia Donnell-Smithii n. sp., PLATE XXVI.—A tree 50 to 75 feet high, often 4 feet in diameter: leaves palmately-compound on long peduncles 5 to 10

[4] As we are so soon to publish a full bibliography of the Hepaticæ, a complete list of Dr. Gottsche's writings will there be given.

[5] Hepaticæ in Triana et Planchon: Prodromus Floræ Novo-Granatensis. Ann. des Sc. Nat., 5th ser., I. 95–198, t. XVII–XX (1864).

[6] De Mexikanske Levermosser, efter Prof. Fr. Liebmann's Samling. Dansk. Vid. Salsk. Skrift. VI, 97–380, t. I–XX (1867).